UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1059
11 November 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our discussions yesterday evening, I write to inform you, and through you, all members of the Security Council, of a decision I took last night. That decision was to remove all the Special Commission's personnel from Iraq. They departed on the Commission's aircraft during the morning of 11 November and arrived safely in Bahrain thereafter.

For the immediate future, I intend that the Commission's staff remain in Bahrain pending decisions by the Government of Iraq which would enable them to return immediately to Baghdad. Were such a decision to be taken, our personnel would be ready to resume work in Iraq within 24 hours.

The prime consideration which motivated the decision, and the speed at which it was executed, was the safety of the Commission's staff in Iraq. The process of arriving at that decision included consultations with the President of the Council, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and because of the presence in our staff of a significant contingent from the Chilean Air Force, the Acting Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations. Discussions were also held with representatives of the office of the Secretary-General.

I regret that under the circumstances which prevailed yesterday evening and the need to act promptly, it was not possible for me to hold wider consultations.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

98-34722 (E) 111198